



DECEMBER, 2011

Current Show

Artisan's Extravaganza

New Members

Three-Dimensional Art

Beyond the Gallery

Member News

* *

Gallery Offerings:

Acrylics

Mixed Media

Oils

Photography

Photomontage

Watercolors

Sculpture

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www.riverfrontartgallery.com

(707) 775-4278

THE GALLERY'S CURRENT SHOW

Through January 8, 2012

**Art Walk Reception: December 10, 4:00-8:00
with Artisans' Extravaganza event.**

KUEHNE AND SPRATT CURRENTLY FEATURED AT RIVERFRONT

If for some inexplicable reason you haven't dropped by to catch the latest show at Riverfront, you are undoubtedly missing a very fine experience. Don't deprive yourself any longer! Our Featured Artists are painter and fabric artist Karen Spratt and photographer Lance Kuehne.

Karen Spratt has put together a group of paintings that are ethereal in effect as well as lyrical in their color, texture, and imaginative prowess. Since childhood, Karen has been skilled at working with fabrics, eventually learning to create her own through tatting, knitting, crocheting, spinning yarns, and weaving. Products of these endeavors are in the show, and several of them were purchased during the opening reception. Karen has titled her Featured Artist show *A Weaver's Dreams*, a reference to both the fabrics she has created and her paintings, which depict sources for cotton, wool, and silk threads and yarns.

Lance Kuehne has photographed in various parks in the Patagonia area that straddles the border of Argentina and Chile, as well as capturing images in the Atacama Desert on the coast of Chile. His engaging images put the viewer into a world of snow-covered peaks and lakes harboring icebergs and then into a desert so dry that some areas get no rain at all. Amid such stark beauty he has found much to tantalize our senses, not least the image of the young man herding horses against a backdrop of the Andes.

Also on hand is Lance's 16-month calendar for 2012 with the theme: "Wine Country" and featuring area scenery. It is available at Riverfront.



Handmade
fabrics by
Karen Spratt



*Herding
Horses*
by Lance
Kuehne

Gallery's Winter Hours

11:00 am to 6:00 pm Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday

11:00 am to 8:00 pm Friday and Saturday

Closed Monday and Tuesday

**ARTISANS' EXTRAVAGANZA AT
ART WALK, DECEMBER 10, 4:00-8:00**

With Halloween (and its piles of sweets) and Thanksgiving (with its mounds of stuffing) already "X'ed" off the calendar, we now turn our attention to that ultimate celebration of family that occurs around the festivities of Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa. At Riverfront Art Gallery, we would love nothing more than to help you fill the season with exceptional surprises. To that end, during Art Walk on December 10, we will hold our event of the season: **Artisans' Extravaganza**.

Riverfront will feature hand-crafted jewelry by jewelry makers Janet McBeen with her fabric jewelry and unusual moss and lichen earrings and Bree and Dan Karpavage whose interesting shapes in sterling silver and gold-filled wire, with or without stones, are both simple and elegant. These jewelers will be on hand with their wares for this event only, so be certain to drop by between 4:00 and 8:00 to snap up these well-crafted and well-priced gifts. (For more on these jewelry makers, see page 6.)

The gallery is also showing creations by several artisans working in woods and metals. Small teak and iron tables and sculptures by Leonard Mygatt, handcrafted bird houses with façades like local landmarks by Greg Zirbel, and assemblages from antique bits and pieces by Monty Monty, as well as humorous figures by Hobart Humphrey add diversity to your gift options. (See the article on these four artists on pages 4 and 5).

On gallery walls and in the print bins of members and Guest Artists are works in numerous sizes and in a range of prices, including many small pieces to grace a space over a desk or in a comfy nook, something to add color or humor to the walls of a hallway, perhaps a piece for the dining area, and, of course, wonderful paintings and photographs to serve as focal points for any room. Rumor has it that there are likely to be several special bargains available only during the Art Walk reception. So get your Santa suit on and come on down!

NEW MEMBER: KATHLEEN DEYO

Kathleen Deyo paints in different styles and with various mediums: watercolors, pastels, oils, and oil sticks, and also does monochromatic drawings, murals, and works on ceramic tile and silk.

Having exchanged the East Coast for the West Coast, Kathleen is busily painting wine country and Petaluma scenery, as in *Afternoon Walk*. "My challenge," she says, "was to make it romantic without being trite or sentimental."

Kathleen's debut show clearly reflects her love of both Sonoma County and the New York City area, with, in some cases, nearly parallel images such as *Petaluma River* and *Sea Breeze*.

Her works span urban and rural, gardens and markets, landscapes and more intimate nooks. Of the scene in *Palm Trees* she says, "I painted this during a hot spell and tried to make the painting seem as hot as I felt!"

Do come to see this altogether *cool* show!



Palm Trees



Sea Breeze

www.kathleendeyo.com



Afternoon Walk



Petaluma River

NEW MEMBER: KIRK HINSHAW

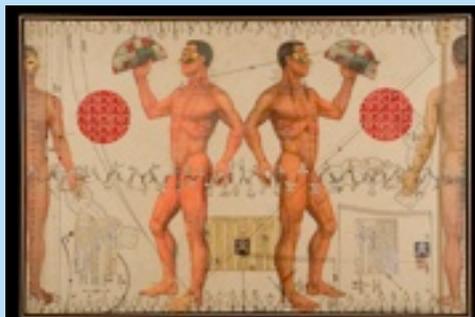
Specializing in collage, Kirk Hinshaw describes the art form as “a bridge between the conscious and the unconscious minds. It can be a deeply personal art form in which images from magazines, photographs, bits of paper, cloth and other two dimensional objects are cut and pasted onto painted or unpainted surfaces. Images, usually unrelated, are combined in unexpected ways, creating compositions that are often highly colorful and textured resulting in a delight for the viewer’s eye.”

Referring to his own creations, Kirk says, “These collage works offer a new way to view everything

from poetry to politics. Or they can give a glimpse of beauty so unexpected it might have been produced by a magic wand from a fairy godmother.”

Collage appeals to all ages, Kirk feels, but adults seem to lag behind in their appreciation of unconventional works. “I’ve learned a lot from watching children who come to exhibits with their parents. Children appear more open to the fantasy, fun and playfulness that is inherent in the art.” So when you come to see Kirk’s show of high skill and imagination, be sure to bring your inner child!

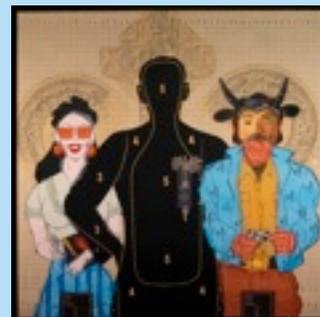
<http://kirksartonline.com>



A Natural Waistline



Pug Extraordinaire



With A Wink And A Nod

NEW MEMBER: ROB MARTEL

Rohnert Park photographer Rob Martel does family portraits, engagements and weddings, event photography, and model portfolios as his commercial work.

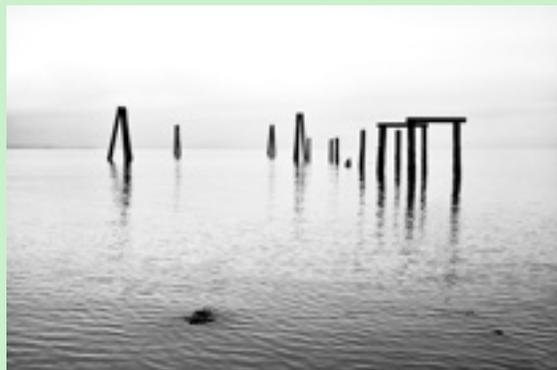
However, Rob also has a fine-arts side to his photography. He has a practiced eye when it comes to seeing details that can become a striking visual image, whether in black and white or color. Many of his images take on graphic design and abstract qualities, as in *Still*.

In his opening show, Rob is featuring black and white images. Rob says, “It’s all about waiting for

the light. Be it a person, place or thing it's the right light or the way light falls or reflects that creates the magic. I look to reveal shapes, forms and moods in people, places, things that are accentuated by captivating light.”

Two images that reveal Rob’s skill in capturing dramatic light are *To Sea* and *Tree Watching Clouds* (detail). Summing up his intent, Rob states it this way: “In my work my goal is to take the ordinary and present it extraordinarily via the magic of light.” And magic his images are!

martel_rob@sbcglobal.net



Still



Detail, Tree Watching Clouds



To Sea

THREE-DIMENSIONAL ART AT RIVERFRONT

Riverfront is giving a new program a trial run. Bits of sculpture are being placed around the gallery, adding three-dimensional art to the usual two-dimensional works. While the current pieces are all of woods and metals, a number of additional options for three-dimensional works are being considered. This new direction will expand the gallery's offering and increase its ability to give area artists an opportunity to showcase their work in a professional setting.

Currently on view are the creations of four "three-dimensional artists"--Hobart Humphrey, Monty Monty, Leonard Mygatt, and Greg Zeibler--each with a distinctive style, approach, and product.

As a founding member of Riverfront Art Gallery, Hobart Humphrey initially offered large impressive wall pieces of aluminum, brass, and copper--his "ABCs" as he called that series of pieces. He also took a turn at creating Calder-type mobiles of various sizes.

Not one to rest on past laurels, Ho has now ventured into new territory. This time he has brought whimsical figures fashioned from copper tubing and other bits and pieces. Light and airy, they are a product of Ho's imagination and sense of humor, as with *Bird of Prey*.



Bird of Prey

Hobart Humphrey

Monty Monty refers to his unique works as "vintage collectable sculpture and assemblage" pieces combined with a theme in mind. Discreet items of interest and vintage collectibles are sculpted into a whole and unified form. Monty explains, "I take cast-off objects of our throwaway society, antique collectibles, curios, and sometimes family heirlooms and breathe new life into them, rendering new ways to look at old things."

Monty's intent is for the assembled piece to have an organic, natural look achieved by relying on his imagination and creative methods. He says, "I do not weld. I take great care in the restoration of each component during my process, giving the work a vintage quality."



Single Gauge Flint Pistol

Monty Monty

Monty describes *Single Gauge Flint Pistol* as a "clash of genres and a mix of eras" which he hopes suggests Daniel Boone v.s. Buck Rogers. The piece features two reassembled wood stocks, an imported "thermometer" phosphorous gauge, a round sight glass, and antique round file with original handle, brass bead, and spring.

With a smile, Monty says, "It is ideal for any backwoods spacemen venturing out into the great unknown. A throwback into the future, there could be no better friend to have at your side. The vintage single gauge flint pistol releases the sweet smell of gun powder while firing a single red cap. A look through the large round glass window sight offers a view of a single phosphorous gauge that glows in the dark for good night visibility. Caps included!"

Article continued on page 5.

Continued from page 4: Three-Dimensional Art

Leonard Mygatt is a local artist working in iron and teak. His works at the gallery include candlesticks and sculptures, such as *Dogwood Blossom Branch*. But sculpture is not his only form of creativity. Leonard also has samples of his small teak and iron tables on the gallery floor.



Dogwood Blossom Branch

Leonard Mygatt

About his work, Leonard comments, "I got interested in working hot iron when I was about 30, watching an old blacksmith repairing farm tools in a little town in Eastern Pennsylvania. He seemed to solve problems with such ease, so I thought I would try doing it myself. I am now 82, and I am still learning, being motivated to combine the strength of the metal with simplicity of form to create attractive and balanced one-of-a-kind pieces.

"Along the way I also learned to do woodworking, and it just seemed natural to combine the gentleness of the wood with the strength of the metal in producing practical as well as artistic pieces which will have a long life."

Quite different from the prior three artists, Greg Zirbel works entirely in wood, creating elaborate birdhouses fashioned in the image of local wineries and historical landmarks, such as *Washoe House*.

MEMBER NEWS

Gus Feissel's winter scenes in photographic show at Hudson Street Wineries, Healdsburg, Thurs-Mon, 12:00-4:00, through Jan 4.

Frank Oravetz, Stephanie Hamilton-Oravetz, Chris Melville, Jerrie Jerné, and Cathy Thomas in *Nouveau Holiday* show at Towers Gallery, 240 N. Cloverdale Blvd., Suite 2, Cloverdale, Fridays-Sundays only through December 31

Washoe House is Sonoma County historical landmark #41 and is a very popular place. Built in 1859 as a stagecoach station for travel between Petaluma, Bodega, and Santa Rosa, it is located on Stony Point and Roblar roads and was even a brothel at one time.



Washoe House birdhouse

Greg Zirbel

Greg notes, "My birdhouses are fully functional art. For instance, *Washoe House* hangs on a wall, fence or tree by one nail. Both roof areas lift straight off. One side is the nesting box; the other is a feeder. They're made from redwood which is the preferred nesting wood as it has its own natural insecticide built in and will last for many years."

Greg became a master birdhouse builder after a back injury. He explains, "This is when I decided to make my own Christmas gifts from recycled lumber. It just so happened that I ran into what was once the largest pig farm in Sonoma County on Railroad Avenue just south of Cotati. This was a great source of old lumber. I ended up building about 350 birdhouses from that lumber, many resembling historical Sonoma County landmarks with an old-West whimsical look to them."

Greg recovered and for nearly 20-years put his craftsmanship and skills aside. Now turning to building birdhouses again, Greg says, "It feels great that I'm able to save a little bit of Sonoma County history by creating these historical replicas."

"BEYOND THE GALLERY"

Riverfront's Program at Petaluma Businesses

at Elliot James: Mark Lifvendahl - paintings
at Graziano's: John Gowen - landscape paintings
at JSolar: Frank Oravetz & Stephanie Hamilton Oravetz - photography
at Planet Beach: Jerrie Jerné - photography

JEWELRY MAKERS AT RIVERFRONT

JANET MCBEEN

Janet McBeen designs a very popular line of fabric earrings, taking full advantage of the varied colors and designs that fabrics have to offer. Not only are they colorful and inexpensive, but they are very easy to wear due to their lightness. As Janet says, "Your ears hardly notice."



Fabric earrings
by Janet McBeen

Earrings of lichen
and moss by
Janet McBeen

Janet's newest creations celebrate the natural world. A camping trip in the Cascades led to interest in the mosses and lichens on the forest floor. She says, "I began experimenting with putting them together. Everyone says they get a lot of attention, so I'm hoping they will appeal to people who like something natural and different."

Janet also uses fabric wire and beads to create necklaces with a fun flair. Come sample Janet's unique products at the Art Walk reception, Dec. 10. They make excellent gifts (or spoil yourself!).



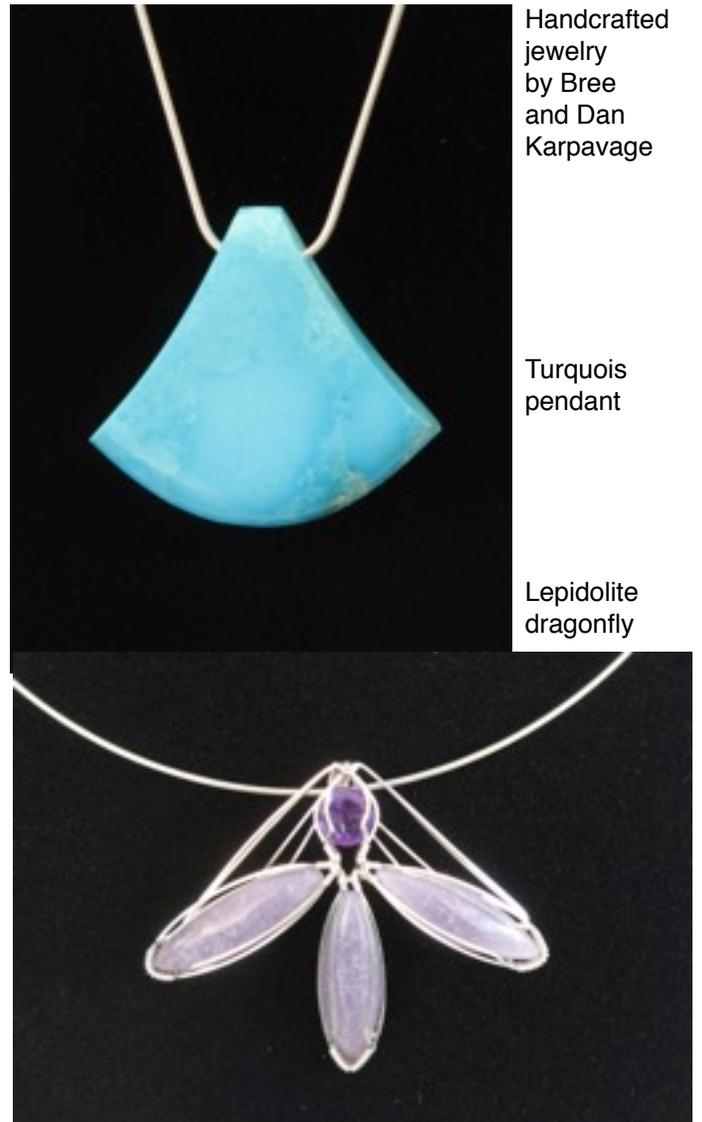
Wire and fabric
necklace by
Janet McBeen

BREE KARPAVAGE

Along with her husband, Dan, Bree Karpavage started Sky Fire Gems in 2003. Bree explains that Dan creates gemstone pendants for both men and women, while she creates unusual wire settings using fine sterling silver and 14K gold filled wire either alone as wire necklaces and earrings or as forms to cradle their carefully-chosen stones.

The pair produces pendants, necklaces, pins, and earrings. Bree says, "Our designs always grow and develop in response to the unique shape and character of each stone." Each item of jewelry is automatically a one-of-a-kind piece since no two stones are alike. They also occasionally use polished fossils in their jewelry.

Bree will be on hand with Sky Fire Gems creations at the Art Walk, Dec. 10.



Handcrafted
jewelry
by Bree
and Dan
Karpavage

Turquoise
pendant

Lepidolite
dragonfly